

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- v. -

CAESAR DIAZ, and
MICHAEL HAWKINS,

Defendants.

ORDER

20 Cr. 176 (LAK)

Defendants Caesar Diaz and Michael Hawkins seek to proceed with a change of plea proceeding via video conference instead of a personal appearance in court. In view of the ongoing pandemic, video conferencing has been employed by judges in the Southern District of New York on numerous occasions. This Court finds that any further delay in this proceeding would result in serious harm to the interests of justice. Proceeding by video conference with a change of plea advances Diaz's and Hawkins's cases and furthers justice, including any appeal, without undue delay. See § 15002 (b)(2) of the Coronavirus Air, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act.

During the change of plea proceeding, the magistrate judge should allocute each defendant on his consent to proceed via video conference as previously stated by his counsel.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: New York, New York
November 16, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lewis A. Kaplan", is written over a horizontal line.

THE HONORABLE LEWIS A. KAPLAN
United States District Judge
Southern District of New York